

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:381

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002

SHEKHAR SINGH COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON E & F

PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the serious situation arising out of Shekhar Singh Committee's Report pertaining to environment and forests' condition in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which has adversely affected one lakh population;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been undertaken in this regard;
- (c) if not, whether the Government propose to appoint a Study Team to go through all the pros and cons of the Report and take remedial measures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of house .

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO:381 OF 16.12.2002 REGARDING SHEKHAR SINGH COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON E & F

(a) to (d) The Supreme Court by its order dated 7.5.2002 in Interlocutory Application No. 502 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 has accepted the report given by Shri Shekhar Singh, pursuant to the Court's order dated 23.11.2001 and issued direction regarding felling of trees, preparation of revised Working Plan, working of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, removal of encroachment, movement of timber, working of wood based industries and mining of sand. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration had been directed to file monthly affidavits regarding progress on removal of encroachment. All efforts have been made to implement these orders including regular review of the progress of implementation. The Ministry had appointed a Committee consisting of Shri N.K. Joshi, Addl. Director General of Forests and Shri Y.S. Bhawe, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor to go into the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, keeping in view the orders of the Supreme Court as also the report submitted by the Commissioner of enquiry set up the Supreme Court.